BOSTON UNIVERSITY
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A STUDY OF THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS OF SEVENTEEN ADOLESCENT GIRLS PRESENTING PROBLEMS IN SEXUAL DELINQUENCY

A Thesis

Submitted by

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This is a study of a selected number of adolescent or preadolescent girls who have been referred for treatment or diagnostic study to the Providence Child Guidance Clinic. The study has been restricted to those adolescents who had expressed behavior problems pertaining to sexual delinquency.

It is a generally accepted conclusion by those working in the field of interpersonal relations that the attitudes and activities of people carried to new relationships outside the family depend upon relationships within the family.

> Experience in working with all troubled persons has taught us that the relationships of parents to each other and to the child is of the utmost importance in the personality development of the child and the child's relationships outside the family group.[1]

The purpose, therefore, of the investigation is to study the familial relationships encountered in such cases and the role they have played in influencing their delinquency problems. The parent-child relationships will be specifically considered.

The following questions will be considered so that a more thorough understanding of the conflicts surrounding the adolescent sex delinquent may be obtained. To what extent

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1 Ruby Little, "Consultation Services for Girls with Venereal Infections", The Family, 15: 163, July, 1944.

have the parent-child relationships influenced the adolescent into sexual delinquencies? How does the attitude and personality of the mother influence this behavior, especially in light of the adolescent's drive towards identification with her? To what extent does the father influence the adolescent's problems? In what way does marital discord become an important factor? What effect has the physical family structure on the adolescent's problems? Does an unsatisfactory adjustment with siblings play an important role?

This study will be based on an analysis of seventeen social case records from the files of the Providence Child Guidance Clinic, Providence, Rhode Island. This is a private agency, originally sponsored by the Rhode Island Mental Hygiene Society, and now subsidized by the Rhode Island Community Fund and Chests Inc.. The clinic does not limit its cases to the city of Providence, but includes the whole state. The majority of cases included in this study, however, are from Providence. Two of these cases were sisters so that actually only sixteen families will be studied. The records of the Rhode Island Child Service, a protective agency, were also made available for a more thorough study of the family background of those cases referred by that agency for psychiatric study and treatment.

The period of referrals covers six years, 1943-1949.

The necessity for this spread of time is due primarily to the selective factor. Only those cases were chosen with sufficient material to present an adequate picture of the personality of the parents and adolescent, and the interrelationship between them. An additional factor was that the number of adolescent girls referred for sexual misbehavior was comparatively small.

Adolescents who were seriously mentally retarded (below the level of border-line intelligence) were excluded from the study. This was because such an innate defect could completely overshadow any other causative factor. Because the study is specifically concerned with the family relationships, length and success of treatment were not considered. Depending upon the amount of information obtainable, the case records were either diagnostic studies or treatment cases. Two of the cases are still active.

In selecting the cases, the writer felt that the adolescent need not have been referred specifically as a sex delinquent, but must have participated in sexual misdemeanors as part of her behavior syndrome.

The method of procedure has been to select, analyze, and classify the material contained in the social case records. This was facilitated by the use of a schedule specifically designed to discover comparable material. It was preceded by an introductory survey of social work and

psychiatric literature on sex delinquency and parent-child relationships during adolescence and preadolescence. This, which will be briefly summarized, has been a guide in the selection of material and in the interpretation of its significance.

The limitations of this study may be considered to be in the social case records themselves; for they were not written for research purposes and consequently do not present an equal amount of information in each.

The clinic setting may not be representative of all classes of society in so far as the vast majority of patients are drawn from the low and middle income groups. The writer feels, however, that the failure to investigate the adolescents from the higher economic and cultural strata would not defeat the objects of the thesis; for although the environmental factors may play a causative role, the deeper dynamics of the familial relationships remain fairly constant.

> Whatever the cultural milieu, the psychologic background remains constant . . . The strictly reared daughter acts differently from the proletarian girl. One meets the latter in social agencies, the former in private practice and sanatoriums; the latter rationalizes her action by explaining that she was never properly cared for, or by adducing her economic difficulties as the cause of her troubles; the former has a "neurosis".[2]

The problem of sexual delinquency in adolescent girls is encountered not only in child guidance clinics, but in protective agencies, probation work, family and children's

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2 Helene Deutsch, M.D. The Psychology of Women, Vol.I, P.262

agencies, group work agencies, and other phases of social work. Because family relationships are the major focus for all the problems encountered in a child guidance clinic, it is naturally considered of paramount importance in work with sexual delinquents. It is the writer's opinion, however, that a broader understanding of the delinquent girl's relationship with her family and how it affects her behavior would also be helpful to all social workers handling such situations even though their functions may differ. Such an understanding would not only create a keener awareness of the problems facing the adolescent, but would aid in coping with the total problem in a more efficient manner.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE RELATED TO SEX DELINQUENCY AND PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIPS DURING ADOLESCENCE

There have been numerous articles and books published on the problem of adolescent sexual delinquencies, each investigating the problem from a variety of focal points. Many causes; such as, broken homes, loss of parent, poor economic conditions, bad environments, social turbulencies, mental deficiencies etc., have been pointed out to account for such delinquent acts; yet each author usually concludes with the final evaluation that the effects of the family relationships are of paramount importance in influencing the girl's delinquent behavior. In a study on some of the possible motives in sexual delinquency, Florence Sears and Helen Witmer based most of their classifications on factors relating to the home situation. Even when considering as a factor, in some cases, the common conception that the adolescent of the present generation is carrying out the "Revolt of Modern Youth" or "Modern Philosophy", they finally concluded with the following comment.

> Further examination of their home backgrounds suggested, however, that this new code might not be as new as supposed, but that it was the old story of poor parental example, inadequate training, and deprivation of affection that led these children to seek out the "fast" crowd at school and to defy the customs of the larger social group.[1]

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1 Florence Sears and Helen Witmer, "Some Possible Motives in the Sexual Delinquency of Children of Adequate Intelligence", Smith College Studies in Social Work, 2:23 September 1931.

In a study conducted by the Psychiatric Service of the San Francisco City Clinic on the promiscuity among 365 girls and women no specific factors could be found, although certain characteristics did occur frequently enough to suggest a direct relationship. "Among these basic factors were unsatisfactory familial relationships, often marked by broken homes, and unstable inter-personal relationships."[2] In this same study it was found that "approximately eighty per cent of the patients had unresolved conflicts regarding their families."[3]

Although the majority of authors agree on this thesis as the constant and basic factor behind the adolescent's delinquencies, there has been considerable discussion as to what effect the war and its accompanying social and emotional upheavals has had on the adolescent's sexual behavior. It was agreed by many that the vast majority of girls would never have carried through with their delinquent acts if they had not been caught in the sudden disruption of the normal way of life caused by the war.

There can be no doubt that the varied "abnormalities" of the social, physical, and emotional way of life that took place during these years did play a major role in some adolescent sex delinquency. Studies on this problem, during

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2 Ernest G. Lion, M.D. and others, An Experiment in the Psychiatric Treatment of Promiscuous Girls, P. 66

3 Ibid, P. 18

and after this period, however, still maintain that the war, in the vast majority of cases, did not play the large influential role that many people had commonly accepted. The emotional upheaval that was necessitated during the war years only accentuated the normal conflicts confronted by adolescents. "War, like any other situational crises, only intensifies existing personality patterns and throws them into sharp relief in a new and dramatic relationship." [4] The normal adolescent conflicts and drives become attached to whatever is uppermost in the social environment at the time. In this instance it was the dramatic fact of war which consequently was utilized in the adolescent's relations to unwholesome parent-child relationships and familial conflicts.

Gordon Hamilton clearly expresses this understanding with the following comment.

> Since adolescence is a period when the impulsive life is strong and the ego not too secure, it is to be expected that any disturbance of the ordinary controls of society, increased tensions, dislocations of living routines, and the rest, predispose young people to a high incidence of acting out. The less normal the times, as during wars, the more the number of "normal" girls who fall into this situation. The general observation that one is safe in making is that a large proportion of these adolescent girls have never successfully solved their parental relationship. [5]

How the adolescent reacts to the conflicts and problems

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4 Dorothy Ellsworth, "Precocious Adolescent in Wartime", The Family, 25:3, March, 1944

5 Gordon Hamilton, Psychotherapy in Child Guidance, P. 255.

encountered during this final struggle before she enters into womanhood becomes one of the determining factors in her future relationships and adjustment in the community. The success of this depends greatly upon her previous adjustment to her first object relationships - her parents and siblings.

A brief review of some of the salient features found in the psychological development of the young girl in puberty and adolescence is therefore in order, so that a basic foundation may be established to facilitate an understanding of the influential factors resulting from various parental personalities and attitudes.

The case worker's understanding of the psychology of human behavior has come largely from our psychoanalytical theory and Dr. Helene Deutsch has contributed a great deal to this thinking, particularly in reference to the dynamic concepts of feminine psychology.

According to the modern analysts, after the latency period, which is considered the quiescent phase of the physical and psychological development, the young girl enters into the final stage of emotional growth that still remains largely dependent upon the parent-child relationships. This final and important period is divided by some authors, especially Helene Deutsch into three phases - prepuberty, puberty, and adolescence. Actually there can be no clear

cut distinction between them, for each period blends into the other, as do the previous stages of growth. Consequently other authors simply classify this period pre-adolescence and adolescence.

During prepuberty, or the earlier phases of pre-adolescence, the sexual instincts and drives of the girls of ten or eleven are still rather dormant. Although the first awakenings of future sexual drives may be discerned, it is mainly the period when the girl first begins to get the urge to break away from her old infantile ties, her early object-relationships with her father and mother. She lives in a world situated between the past and the future; between childhood and adulthood. Conflicting ambivalent feelings surround her as she strives to liberate herself from her infantile identification with her mother and begins to assume a sense of responsibility and independence.

As this stage of emotional growth and development evolves into puberty, many tasks confront the young girl. It is during this time that she attempts to transfer her feelings to another ideal woman, usually identifying with a teacher, movie actress etc. She assumes intense friendships with girls of her own age, confiding her innermost secrets. This strong relationship is the homosexual characteristic of early adolescence and, although normal and accepted, may run into dangerous conflicts as she struggles to free herself of

these ties. During this time, however, it is essential; for this association and identification with a similar being can strengthen the young girl's consciousness that she is an independent ego.

Additional conflicts are encountered as the young girl's physical and emotional growth blends into early adolescence. There still remains the uncompleted task of resolving her ties with her family. She begins to lose her interest and desire to identify with other girls of her own age and must free herself from these dangerously strong ties in favor of male relationships. During this period there develops a decided increase in the sexual urges, but there still lacks a direct goal for these drives and consequently all the girl's relations are subject to the dangers of sexualization. The adolescent girl soon loses interest for older women because of the sexual danger that is aroused within the girl. But there still remains numerous internal and external difficulties that obstruct the progress toward heterosexuality.

One of the dangers associated with the lack of a direct goal for the sexual drives occurs because of the young girl's absence of desire for any sexual gratifications, as is later produced in adolescence. Because of this absence of desire, the girl feels secure in heterosexual situations that to her are insignificant harmless games. Such situations are often motivated by the desire to imitate older sisters or

friends, to act grown up, or the wish to take revenge on her parents. Serious consequences may naturally result when she sometimes loses control of these dangerous situations. During this phase of preadolescence one often sees the drive to free herself from the old infantile relationships leading to actual flight when the conflicts at home become too great.

It is well to remember that the psychological events that take place in adolescence have for their foundation not only the reactions that were initiated and encountered during prepuberty and puberty but the emotional and physical experiences encountered in all the previous stages of growth. This phase of development in adolescence cannot be separated from the girl's total childhood development; for each year of emotional growth depends upon the reactions and experiences of the previous years. How the girl was able to deal with her previous conflicts and problems directly affects and determines her ability to adjust and resolve the emotional problems now facing her.

Identification becomes a complicated and individual varying process and plays an important part in the relation of the girl to her parents. This indecision in the choice of identifying objects and the uncertainty in choice between mother and father precipitates the parental triangle in all its emotional intensity. The ambivalence and conflicts surrounding the early Oedipal situation are once again brought

to the fore and her adjustment during this period depends greatly on her previous adjustment with her earlier infantile relationships. The young girl's relations to boys are still dependent upon many old unsolved elements of the father tie that resulted from the earlier Oedipal situation.

Encountered during the stages of puberty and adolescence is the physical growth and change in the body contour of the girl. The conflicts surrounding this physical advancement into womanhood are varied. Along with this, the onset of menstruation increases the conflicts. "While this process is going on, psychological reverberations occur within her. A great many of these are caused by the unfortunate reactions to the growing up process".[6]

As the young girl progresses through adolescence, one sees her not only struggling with the former Oedipal conflicts, but also continuing with the conflicts that occurred during pre-adolescence. She is still seeking adult forms to replace the old, much deeper, and more primitive ties with the mother and striving to end all bisexual wavering in favor of a definite heterosexual orientation.

The new identification with the mother may be frustrated by obstacles in dissolving the old attachment to her. Although this new identification may signify that the girl

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6 O. Spurgeon English and Gerald H.J. Pearson, M.D., Emotional Problem of Living, P. 270.

is assuming a woman's role, it may also indicate her inability to develop her own personality; or she may be clinging to infantile dependence on her mother. The difficulties of the Oedipus complex may also stand in the way of a realization of her feminine wishes.

As the adolescent struggles in her identification conflicts with her mother, she may instinctively turn towards the father. This may be an alliance against the mother who represents the old infantile relationships, in favor of reality and the new outside world. "To grow up means to move away from mother".[7]

One must realize, however, that the father's own personality and attitude toward his daughter are equally important during this process. The normal development towards this activity may undergo various disturbances affecting the adolescent's "outside" relationships. This new Oedipal situation naturally depends greatly on the earlier adjustment of the "family romance".

The heterosexual adjustment of the young girl is still under the strong influence of regressive forces as she strives to break away from her bisexual relationships. The dangers and fears of a heterosexual relationship are great and young people of both sexes are tormented by a feeling of insecurity and uncertainty. Adolescents, faced with anxiety, utilize

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7 Helene Deutsch, M.D., The Psychology of Women, Vol. I, P. 244.

various methods to overcome their conflicts. Fantasies are often resorted to, but unlike the normal puberty fantasies, negating reality, " the adolescent girl takes her fantasy for reality in order to renounce a reality that she regards as perhaps more dangerous".[8] Other forms of escape are the postponement of realization or avoidance of real experience. All of these defense methods at times can become quite dangerous and lead the adolescent into serious difficulties, especially around the sexual area.

"The young boy strongly and actively turns toward reality, while the girl lingers for a longer period and to a greater degree in her fantasy life".[9] This fantasy life takes on a decided sexual aspect and is an important characteristic and vital development in the girl's emotional growth. The content revealed in these fantasies brings forth an unmistakably masochistic element. The conflicts and fears surrounding the awakening sexual urges, the problems of aggression and dependence, and the ambivalent attitudes toward mother and father all become involved in these fantasies which usually surround the erotic, passive, masochistic, and active features of rape, seduction, and prostitution. The real personalities and attitudes of the parents, together with the girl's wholesome identifications with them, play an important role; for it is not infrequent that such fantasies become an important factor in leading to unwholesome

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8 Ibid., P. 125
9 Ibid., P. 130

identifications and serious behavior problems.

> Adolescent fantasy life involves the danger of a breakthrough in the direction of acting out. However, fantasies usually manifest themselves in neurotic symptoms. . . actual act occurs as a result of their own provocation. . . and this occurs only when their fantasies are accompanied by a real emotionally irresistible motive, or by a number of motives. 10

One can see from this brief review of some of the salient psychologic characteristics of pre-adolescence and adolescence, that the parent-child relationships are essential in laying the foundation of the girl's future life. The personality structure and emotional development of both parents can play an important role in disrupting the emotional growth of the girl through adolescence, leading her on an unwholesome path into womanhood and resulting in serious behavior problems. Because of the sexual aspect during this vital stage of growth, these conflicts in behavior often lead into delinquent sexual acts.

It must be remembered, however, that the parent-child relationships and the girl's behavior do not become disturbed simply at the onset of adolescence. The girl's emotional growth and development throughout all the phases of childhood have been influenced by the parents. As she enters the adolescent phase of growth, her previously disturbed personality and behavior usually are intensified and sexual delinquency often becomes an additional symptom of her

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10 Helene Deutsch, The Psychology of Women, Vol. II, P. 168.

disturbed personality.

> Neurotic symptoms, temper tantrums, and other behavior disorders which are employed in childhood to meet frustrations (are) replaced in some cases by promiscuous sexual behavior in adolescence. [11]

There are numerous family situations that are encountered when investigating the parent-child relationships of sexual delinquents; and the factors influencing the adolescent's attitudes are even more multiple and varied. The writer will therefore present only the most generally accepted theories relating to some of the typical family situations found among the adolescent sex delinquent.

Parents, themselves, who are not adjusted in their own emotional growth or have not adjusted to their own marital relationship, either consciously or unconsciously influence their relations with their daughter. For they seek "to find satisfactions of which they have been deprived in maladjustment to their own sex role or in maladjustment to one another".[12]

> It is also certain that parents who are disgruntled with their own adjustment in love distribution may reapportion the love forces in either excessive indulgence or convert it into unwarranted severity toward the offspring. [13]

The father's excessive interest in his daughter as a retaliation or substitution for his lack of love from his wife, may be distorted by the adolescent who is already in a

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11 Lion, op. cit., P.38

12 Caroline B. Zachary, Emotion and Conduct in Adolescence, P.100

13 C.B. Oberndorf, "Child-Parent Relationships", Psycho-Analysis Today, P.75.

struggle of breaking away from the infantile relationships with her mother. Delinquent behavior may result from such an unwholesome situation which can only increase the obstacles besetting the adolescent's adjustment and resolution of this renewed Oedipal situation. Other conflicts arise if the father, cruel and abusive to mother, is also brutal to his daughter because of her relationship and identification with mother. Mother's attitude toward her daughter may also be clouded by her unsatisfactory marital adjustment and she may be overly severe and aggressive because of the girl's attention towards her father.

Whether the parents have dealt with insecurities in their own experience by aggressive attack or by being timid and withdrawn, they are rarely able to give their child the assuring constancy of affectionate support. "The child is likely to meet fresh demands and insecurities of adolescence either with submissiveness or by some technique of retaliation" [14] which possibly may lead her into delinquent behavior.

The importance of the girl's relationship with her mother during pre-adolescence and adolescence has already been stressed. The girl is struggling to break away from her old infantile relationships with her; yet at the same time is attempting to identify with her mother as she enters

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14 Zachary, op. cit., P.101

into womanhood.

The adolescent whose mother has the typical characteristics of being dominant, aggressive, and unloving, is seriously handicapped in this respect. For she is subjected to an immature woman unable to give her the love needed for her emotional growth. There are many upsetting circumstances that can enter into such a girl's emotional development, leading her into sexual delinquencies. If the father is more gentle, the girl, whose hostility toward her mother has been greatly increased as she strives to become independent, naturally turns toward the father who does not represent the infantile attachments and who is able to meet her unusually great need for love. In other cases, however, the girl, partly due to her mother's attitude and personality, has never successfully adjusted to her Oedipal situation and is still firmly attached to her father. In either case, the girl learns that from her father she can get the love, interest, and attention her mother is unable to give, but only by deceiving or defying her. This relationship is not a normal and secure one. It is intensified by the girl's deprivation of maternal love, and threatened by the father's own insecurity and hostility. As these girls grow up unable fully to express the love for father, they may turn to other men with whom there is not this limitation. In this they also punish both parents for failure to give them the love

they need and are still seeking.[15]

Adolescents who have such rejecting, aggressive, and often punitive mothers often expect retaliation and punishment from others, even as they found it in their family relationships. As a result one sees such situations whereby it is quite evident that the girl is actually placing herself in punishing situations, often a sexual delinquent act that involves the police.

Because of the importance of the mother as a wholesome identifying object, the mother who is a withdrawn, timid, insecure, and ineffectual person also presents difficulties to the adolescent. The adolescent often devaluates her mother, as is natural during the struggle from her childhood attachments. In this instance, however, valuation remains because of the realistic reasons and she is unable to associate with the more adult qualities that the adolescent looks forward to in her mother. The adolescent, finding it difficult to identify with her mother may completely react against this parental attitude and seek to identify with unwholesome object-relationships outside of the family. With this in mind, one can see the truth behind the old adage -- "Lazy mothers have smart daughters".

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15 Ruby Little, "Consultation Service for Girls with Venereal Infections", The Family, 15:164, July, 1944.

The personality of the mother also plays an important role in the adolescent's fantasy life which may seriously influence her relationship and adjustment to society. The involvement of the mother in these fantasies, especially the prostitution fantasies, is clearly expressed in Dr. Helene Deutsch's works.[16] One example is the girl who feels that her respectable mother led a sexual life not for her own pleasure but for the sake of father; for she may have said something to her that made the girl assume that sexual life was a painful ordeal. The girl decides, at least in fantasy, not to suffer the fate of mother; that she wants to enjoy her sexuality. Unlike her mother, she wants to love freely and lead a promiscuous life.

The opposite role that mother may play is when the girl feels that mother is devaluated to the status of a prostitute, from the very fact that she had children. Hate and rage toward her, especially when the devaluated mother attempts to place restrictions on her, can develop into a violent struggle resulting in run away episodes.

Yet another fantasy type is seen in the girl who, rightly or wrongly, imagines that her mother was or is a prostitute and who proceeds to build her own life, in a compulsive manner, on the model of this mother. This has been found to occur frequently with girls who have been adopted or reared in foster homes. The absence, or lack of knowledge of her

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16 Deutsch, op. cit., P.372.

real mother furthers this fantasy and leads to identification with the imagined, unknown mother.

In the same way that the mother may play a vital role in the social adjustment of the adolescent, it must naturally be assumed that the father also is influential in the girl's delinquent behavior. Importance has already been given to the part father plays in the girl's struggle with the renewed Oedipal situation. Dr. Deutsch brings out some of the resulting conflicts in the following passage.

> The daughter who has a particularly well sublimated relation to her father and sees this relation broken off with the approach of sexual maturity -- the father often being responsible for such a break -- avenges herself in a masochistic way and is repeatedly faithless to him with other men. The girl feels devaluated because she has been rejected by her father and she continues the devaluation by reducing herself to the role of a sexual object for anybody. The previous sharing of her father's love with her mother, in which she took the "better" spiritual part, and left the sexual part to mother, now breaks down and the girl's repressed sexual drives come to the fore and are transferred to other men.
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> In many cases the relation to father is very tender, particularly when the girl is the youngest . . . as she grows up she loses her privileged position with father . . . She retaliates for this faithlessness with faithlessness. [17]

In any discussion of the role father plays in the renewed Oedipal situation, consideration must be given to the absence of father during adolescence. The failure of the girl to adjust and repress the wish to be with a father, when there is none in the picture, may lead the girl into

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17 Deutsch, op. cit., P.373.

going out with father figures merely because she has never had the opportunity to resolve this desire.

With adolescent sex delinquents, where it is quite obvious that there is an exceedingly unwholesome father-daughter relationship, it has been felt that the father's conscious or unconscious attitude toward the sexuality of his own daughter is a major factor in the resulting promiscuous behavior. This inverted Oedipal situation can be discussed in three varying degrees of intensity.

The most evident representation of this is in the father who has actually carried out incestuous relations with his daughter. The girl's reaction to this may be actually to run away from this situation in disgust and bitter hatred, associating in heterosexual relationships only as a means of punishment to all male figures. Yet she may be so revolted by her father's activities that she enters into promiscuous behavior as a means of expressing a quest for a highly esteemed father. Other forms of promiscuous behavior because of this situation may be utilized as means of punishing father for his actions and mother for her failure to prevent such actions; or as a means of self-punishment because of her own guilt involved in this relationship. Whatever the resulting conscious or unconscious reasons may be, her reactions to this situation are varied and depend not only on her own previous emotional adjustment, as well as her previous

relationship to father, but also on her mother's attitude and personality.

A somewhat more subtle expression of incestuous wishes may be seen in those emotionally immature fathers who are unable consciously to carry them out. The classical picture of such a father is the one who unduly fondles and sexually caresses his daughter and is quite possessive and jealous of her activities with young male friends. Because his desires are on the preconscious level, he would staunchly deny any accusation of incest. Yet his daughter, either consciously or unconsciously, strongly feels these desires and violently reacts to them. Often, in revealing hatred for her father, she will actually accuse him of incestuous relations. Her reations are equally varied and very often form the basis for promiscuous behavior.

Most commonly seen, yet with deeper hidden motives, is the father who has completely unconscious seduction wishes. He too, is often represented as the jealous, domineering, and often cruel father who opposes and interferes with his daughter's interest in boys, keeps her restricted to the home, and is concerned over her morality. The daughter, unable to find an understanding and accepting father, usually retaliates in delinquent behavior.

There are numerous other motives and causative factors in sexual delinquencies, relating to the adolescent's relationship to father and mother, but it is not the writer's

purpose to delve into every parent-child situation.

These theories and concepts surrounding the emotional development of the adolescent girl, and its effect on the relationship with her parents, have been presented to point out their influence on the girl's delinquent behavior. Rather than recapitulate these factors, the writer feels that the underlying theme that is expressed throughout this whole chapter be restated. As the girl enters into adolescence and struggles through this vital phase emotionally insecure, uncertain, and confused, her relationship with her parents is strained and brought to a peak, with her ambivalence between breaking away from her old infantile ties and seeking new adult object relationships with her parents. If at this crucial stage the relationships are disturbed and unwholesome, her previous behavior problems are increased even more so as her sex drive and conflicts come to the fore, new attachments and associations with people outside of the family are increased, the Oedipal conflicts are re-emphasized, and adolescent fantasies become even stronger. The girl's relationship with her parents and her siblings, although important through all the other stages of growth, now pyramid into importance.

CHAPTER III
BACKGROUND OF GROUP

Some general information about this selected group as a whole is desirable before attempting to record and evaluate the individual case records.

Age Table I shows the age distribution of the girls included in this study.

TABLE I

AGES OF SEVENTEEN GIRLS REFERRED TO THE PROVIDENCE CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC WITH PROBLEMS RELATING TO SEXUAL DELINQUENCY

Age	No. of Girls	Per Cent
13 yrs	1	5.9
14	5	29.4
15	5	29.4
16	2	11.8
17	3	17.6
18	1	5.9
Total	17	100.0

The mean age was fifteen years. The jurisdiction of the juvenile court and the Rhode Island Child Service, the protective agency, is usually limited to eighteen years of age; and when seen at the clinic, an older adolescent is generally referred to a hospital's out-patient clinic for further psychiatric treatment.

Intelligence Although this study excluded girls with seriously retarded intelligence, the general coverage of the

group shows an absence of deviations of intelligence. Psychological tests were administered in all except five cases. No information as to intelligence rating was obtainable in any of these five cases. One girl was in the dull normal group, and there was none in the superior group. The remainder were classified in the three varying levels of normal intelligence. Five were considered to have low average intelligence, five were in the average group and one was considered to be high average in intelligence.

School Attainment and Adjustment The following table shows the school grades attained at the time of referral.

TABLE II
SCHOOL GRADE ATTAINMENT OF SEVENTEEN GIRLS STUDIED

Grade	No. of Girls	Per Cent
6	2	11.8
7	1	5.9
8	4	23.4
9	5	29.4
10	2	11.8
11	1	5.9
12	2	11.8
Total	17	100.0

The mean grade for the group was the ninth, which compares favorably to the mean age which was fifteen. All six of the adolescents who were sixteen years old or over had left school before graduation. The maximum age for compulsory school attendance in Rhode Island is sixteen. All withdrawals were voluntary except one whose stepfather made

her leave and one who was expelled for truancy.

The remaining eleven girls were attending school between the sixth and tenth grade.

Although an equal amount of information in the case records was not obtainable on the school adjustment, the girls' progress was determined by the teacher's comments on their behavior, attitude, and ability to get along with their classmates. With this information, it was found that fourteen did not make a good adjustment. Two were failing in school and one had maintained excellent grades. Four were definite truancy problems.

The adjustment of the remaining three girls in school was good or fair. Two were reported as truanting during their phase of delinquent behavior.

Social Adjustment The personal and social adjustment of the group was determined through the aid of data based on the social histories, the psychiatrist's reports, and the psychological evaluations.

Nine girls had few or no friends at all. They were unable to relate to people of their own age and could be described, as was the case in one instance, as the "lone-wolf" type. The Rorschach test on two of these girls revealed homosexual conflicts that probably hampered their relationships with girls because of their unconscious fears. Extremely unwholesome childhood environments and deep laid

conflicts with their parents were also contributing factors to their inability to adjust with people, especially of their own age.

In one case the girl did not have any school friends, but she did find associations in the neighborhood "gang" even though it did lead her into delinquent acts.

Seven girls, however, did show indications of being able to relate fairly well with people of their own age and appeared to make friends quite easily.

Marital Situation In regard to the marital situation in each girl's home, the following facts have been compiled and are shown in Table III. This is based on the observation of the social workers and psychiatrists, and what the parents said about their marriage.

TABLE III
MARITAL AND ECONOMIC STATUS OF SIXTEEN FAMILIES OF GIRLS STUDIED

Marital Status of Parents	No.	Per Cent	Economic Status		
			Marginal	Average	Above Ave.
Living Together	10	62.50	3	6	1
Divorced	1	6.25	0	1	0
Separated	1	6.25	1	0	0
Father Dead	2	12.50	0	1	1
Mother Dead	1	6.25	0	1	0
Both Parents Dead	1	6.25	0	1	0
Total	16	100.00	4	10	2

In five of the ten households where father and mother were living together, poor relationships seem to have existed. Two were reported with a good harmonious relationship existing between the parents. In three records there was no indication of any existing friction between the parents and it therefore may be assumed that there was no trouble.

The incompatability of the parents had various effects on the girls; such as, inconstancy in training and discipline, divided loyalties between parents, and emotional ties to one parent and rejection of the other. In two cases it was quite evident that the quarreling and friction between the parents centered around the child.

The remaining six households were incomplete in various ways. One father did not return to live with his family after his discharge from the army. Another father was a widower whose wife had died when the patient was seven months old. In two records the mother's were widows. One was remarried shortly after the father's death when the adolescent was fifteen years old. The other's husband died two years before the child was referred to the clinic when she was twelve years old. One mother had obtained a divorce when the patient was a baby. In one record, the adolescent was an orphan, both parents having died when she was a baby and most of her life was spent in the home of two foster "aunts".

Economic Situation Table III also shows the economic status of the group. Only four families were considered to be living on a marginal economic level. None of them were receiving any public assistance.

The over-all picture shows that the lack of family income did not play an influencing role for this group. Although it is true that adolescents who are deprived of luxuries because of low family income, may utilize the absence of these material benefits as a rationalization of their delinquent behavior, only one record was found in which the girl ran away from home because she could not obtain pretty clothes. On the contrary, in three cases, the parents felt that their daughters had been "spoiled" with too many luxuries.

Siblings Most patients had siblings, the number ranging from one to nine. In two cases there were no siblings, while in one record, the existence of a sibling was insignificant as the sister was placed in another foster home when they were infants and only rarely saw each other. In seven records the girls were the oldest sibling, while in three families they were the youngest. The others occupied positions in the middle, with older or younger siblings.

In eight homes, the adolescent had poor relationships with her sibling or siblings. In one record this was given as an excuse for running away from home. In two cases the

parents gave good cause for this overt sibling rivalry by showing open preference for one of the siblings.

Some authors of psychoanalytic literature point out that the conflicts of an adolescent girl that lead her into promiscuous behavior may relate to her identification with an older sister who obtains a boy friend or becomes married and has children. Although some situations in this study may have had this motivation involved, there was no specific information obtainable in the records that could substantiate this.

Personality of the Parents The personality of the parents is important in this analysis as it has a direct bearing on the parent-child relationships. Since information from each case record did not always give comparable and sufficient material on each parent, the writer was not able to place the parents into any minute personality classifications. It was possible, however, to place most of the parental group into broad classifications.

Although this breakdown of personalities is, by necessity, a broad general coverage, the over-all picture shows that in only one record were there mature, stable parents. In the remaining households at least one parent was rejecting and hostile, with the other unable to be an emotionally secure and effective parent; personality attributes which are so necessary and vital in an adolescents emotional growth.

In seven cases the father was found to be dominant, stern, punitive, and at times, rejecting. Their wives were usually found to be, in varying degrees, weak, withdrawn and ineffectual women. In two case records it was found that although the fathers were harsh and strict, the mothers were also cold, unloving, and unsympathetic people lacking in maternal feeling.

Three fathers (in one case the father was a widower) were, in varying degrees, passive, timid and gentle persons; while their wives were, in some manner, dominant, unloving, rejecting, and punitive.

In two cases where there were no fathers in the household, both mothers were overtly rejecting, stern and unyielding. In the one record where the girl's parents were foster "aunts", they were found to be spinsterish, loving, but over-precise women. In only one case were both parents found to be warm, sympathetic and understanding people.

Although this analysis is too small in scope to draw any definite conclusions as to the characteristic mother and father to be found in such cases, the preponderance of dominant, unloving, and punitive fathers does differ from a previous study which found the greatest majority of this type of parent to be the mother.[1]

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1 Ruby Little, "Consultation Service for Girls with Venereal Infections", The Family, 15: 163, July, 1944.

Sources of Referral The following table shows the distribution of the sources of referral for the adolescents.

TABLE IV
SOURCES OF REFERRAL FOR SEVENTEEN GIRLS STUDIED

Source of Referral	No. of Girls	Per Cent
Protective Agency	10	58.8
Probation Department	2	11.8
Police Department	1	5.9
Foster Home Placement Agency	1	5.9
Parents	3	17.6
Total	17	100.0

Of the three parents who voluntarily referred their daughters to the clinic, one was at the suggestion of the school department and one at the suggestion of the Traveler's Aid Society who located the girl after running away to another state. Although a majority of the cases referred by the protective agency were first turned over to it by the probation department, only two were actually referred to the clinic by the department.

In a previous study on sexual delinquency this decided lack of referrals by parents was also noted and the authors came to the following conclusion.

> The unusually high proportion of court referrals shows society's attitude toward the problem and suggests that parents are either unaware of such activities on the part of their children, or are reticent in citing it as a reason of referral.[2]

Behavior Problems at Time of Referral besides Sex Offense All of the girls were referred to the clinic with behavior problems besides sexual delinquency. In some cases more than one problem was indicated.

Repeated running away episodes were found in six records, while stealing and defiant, unmanageable behavior at home were each mentioned in five cases. Severe discipline problems in school were recorded in three instances, and lying and extreme anxiety were included more than once. Truancy and violent temper tantrums were also mentioned as problems in the referral statements.

These behavior disturbances were also found in other records as the case material was analyzed, but they were not given as specific problems when referred to the clinic.

In all the cases except one, these behavior problems were expressed prior to the girl's promiscuous behavior. In the majority of cases, these problems were noted throughout most of their childhood.

The general coverage of the group indicates that sexual misdemeanors are only a part of the delinquent behavior exhibited by these girls. The emotional conflicts previously

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2 Florence Sears and Helen Witmer, "Some Possible Motive in the Sexual Delinquency of Children of Adequate Intelligence", Smith College Studies in Social Work, 2:3, September, 1931.

expressed through their disturbed behavior at home, at school, and in the community are intensified and increased by the sex drive which comes to the fore in adolescence and promiscuity therefore becomes one of their behavior problems.

To summarize the findings on the background of the entire group of seventeen girls:

The age range was from thirteen to eighteen with the mean at fifteen. All of the girls, except one, were in the three levels of normal intelligence. All of the girls over sixteen years of age had left school, while the mean school grade was the ninth. All but four girls did not make a good adjustment in school, while only seven girls associated with friends of their own age. In five of the ten homes where the parents were living together, there were strained marital relations. Six households were incomplete in so far as having both parents present. The economic situation was generally good with no family receiving public assistance. All but two of the adolescents had siblings, while eight girls did not get along well with one or more of them. Nine of the fathers were found to be dominant, stern, punitive, and at times rejecting, while the majority of their wives were ineffectual women. In only one record were both the parents affectionate, understanding, and mature people. Twelve cases were referred by the protective agency and the probation department, while only three parents

initiated contact. Running away episodes, stealing, and uncontrollable behavior at home were the most frequent complaints made at the time of referral. Their sexual delinquency was found to be only one more expression of their disturbed personalities which had produced behavior problems throughout all the phases of growth.

CHAPTER IV
PRESENTATION OF CASES

The cases will be presented in three categories. The first group, consisting of eight cases, all have in common fathers who were, in varying degrees, strict, stern and abusive men. The second group of six cases were all similar in so far as the mothers of the girls were, in one form or another, rejecting, unloving, and punitive women. The third group consists of three cases which could not be placed in the previous categories.

Groups I and II, however, are not mutually exclusive. In many cases it was found that both parents exhibited various forms of rejection and hostility. From the material brought forth in these individual cases, however, it was apparent that one of the parents was not only more predominant and excessive in his (or her) strict and abusive manner, but also seemed to have a more disturbing influence on the girl's relationship. It is for this reason that Case 8 was classified in the first group, while Case 12 was placed in Group II.

Group I

Case 1.

Carmen, a fifteen year old chubby, well developed girl, was referred to the clinic by the protective agency. Her present situation arose over the fact that a few months previously, Carmen had run away to New York and was picked up by the police, soliciting servicemen. She told the psychiatrist at the Traveler's Aid Society's home that her father had sexually attacked her several times. The doctor felt that this

was rather a form of hysteria and suggested the child guidance clinic to her parents who were bringing her home. They did not follow this up. After a week at home she again ran away to Boston and the police referred her to the Masachusetts S.P.C.C. who in turn had her seen at the Judge Baker Guidance Center, where they were inclined to believe Carmen's story of incest and she was returned to the protective agency in Rhode Island. While at their shelter home, she ran away and was found by her parents in a neighboring town

Carmen and her sixteen year old brother were the oldest siblings, while there were a younger sister and brother. When seen at the clinic, mother's description of the home life was much too perfect and she later revealed that there was a strained relationship with her husband. She had little time for her children, being very active in community affairs and the father was quite active in party politics.

The father, who was a captain in the State Guard and worked for the local shipyard, was disliked by the community because of his foul mouth and unwholesome political maneuvers. When seen at the clinic, he was pugilistic in appearance and was found to be an opinionated, quick tempered, and suspicious sort of person who was impulsive and lacking in self control. It was felt that he was a deprived man who had held himself in many ways rigidly in check and now achieved many satisfactions out of being the dominant person in the household.

He vigorously denied the accusations of incest, and presented a picture of injured innocence, saying that Carmen ought to be put in jail. He seemed to have a very repressive attitude toward her, and did a great deal of spying on her, inclining to be jealous and very restrictive. He carried out all of the discipline in the home in a very strict, domineering, and abusive manner.

Although she expressed bitter hatred of her father, Carmen thought it was wrong and was terribly ashamed of this. She said that her father had been having sexual relations with her since she was seven years old. She later denied this at the clinic, but in such a way that she certainly appeared to be lying. At first she did not wish to go home and was defiant, but at the court hearing, wept and asked to be returned to her parents.

Carmen's mother, who was felt to be probably limited in intelligence, appeared emotionally very confused. She was deeply concerned over the fact that

> she would now have to resign from all her club activities because she was ashamed to walk in the street. She seemed very ambivalent and immature; unable to face the fact that this could happen, because it would destroy everything for her.
>
> She could not accept Carmen's accusation of incest and always felt that she had given a good home to Carmen. She admitted being resentful of Carmen when she was a baby because of her birth eleven months after her first child.
>
> When Carmen was returned home, mother reported that Carmen was making a good adjustment and confiding more in her. She therefore terminated their contact with the clinic. It was felt that this adjustment was a superficial one that would not last and that mother was leaving the clinic not because she lacked confidence, but because she wanted to deny that this crisis ever happened and as soon as possible go on in life as though nothing had ever occurred.

The relationship between Carmen and her father had been a bad one for a long time. This emotionally deprived man obtained great satisfaction out of controlling his family - to mold and do with as he pleased. His restrictive, jealous attitude toward Carmen indicated his incestuous desires, which may only have been seduction at an unconscious level on his part. If so, Carmen's accusations may have been unconsciously motivated in terms of revenge. In either case, Carmen was perfectly aware of her father's feelings toward her and this is one of the chief reasons for a girl's running away from home. Her deeper motivation for continuing her promiscuous behavior once she did leave the home can only be contemplated, but it can definitely be related to her disturbed relationship with her father.

Unable to turn to her mother, who was too preoccupied with her social affairs and had little understanding of the

love and affection required by an adolescent girl, Carmen's only alternative was flight.

Case 2.

Arlene was fourteen years old when she was referred by the protective agency after her teacher had discovered that her father had whipped her so severely that her body was all bruised. When given her choice between remaining at home or living at the agency's temporary shelter home, Arlene preferred the latter.

Arlene was born out of wedlock, and although the parents wanted to marry, they were unable to because of economic conditions. Under the influence of the maternal grandmother, who was extremely strict and domineering, mother placed Arlene out for adoption. The adoption turned out to be a very poor one, however, and after this mistake was discovered, the court returned Arlene and her custody to her natural parents. Arlene was seven years old at this time and mother revealed a great deal of guilt over these unfortunate circumstances.

The marital relations between the parents were fairly good. Arlene, however, has always been a source of anxiety to her parents, for the father demanded strict obedience and absolute cleanliness in the home. Father, at the time of referral, had just returned from service in the Merchant Marine as an officer. Arlene had one sister, six years younger, who apparently was no problem to the family. There was, however, great sibling rivalry on Arlene's part because her sister had always remained in the home.

Arlene's father joined the Navy at an early age because of very strict parental discipline. He was very neat, meticulous, and exact in appearance. His discipline of Arlene was extremely strict to the point of cruelty. When Arlene first came into the home, her father was delighted to have her. Mother recalled how they used to engage in pillow fights with each other. This early attachment to her declined with his gradual annoyance at her behavior which eventually led to severe beatings. He had forbidden her to bring any friends into the home and felt that she should not associate with boys until she was sixteen years of age. He was ambivalent as to whether she should be returned home. Arlene seemed to have both an attraction and a repulsion for father.

Arlene's mother was a large, obese, conscientious mother who seemed to be trying desperately to serve as an intermediary between Arlene and her father. When mother was first seen, she was pregnant, although she later lost her child at birth. Although it was felt that she was a very strong and warm person with a great capacity for understanding and an acceptance of Arlene, she had been completely unsuccessful with her. She was anxious for help but felt that Arlene always lied and had been "saucy" to her. Arlene in turn expressed resentment towards her mother and described her as "easy".

Arlene's adjustment had been fairly good at school and it was not difficult for her to make friends. Mother said that she had been writing "sexy" notes in school to boys and had participated in sexual relations with them. Arlene admitted to the psychiatrist that she had relations with two boys in the neighborhood, although actually she had only the vaguest notions about the physical aspects of sex.

During the time she was seen at the clinic, she was transferred from the temporary shelter home to a Catholic training school, where she adjusted fairly well although she requested to go back home. She was consequently released under the custody of the protective agency to her parents.

Psychological testing showed that Arlene was a girl of average intelligence who showed definite neurotic tendencies and a lack of control of her impulses.

During the last phases of contact, the conflict with father was still obvious, although there had been some change in Arlene's masochistic response to him. The mother-daughter relationship was still stormy, although there were many warm and positive elements in it.

The conflicting and disturbed feelings over Arlene's early placement situation resulted in guilt, anxiety and punishment on the part of the parents and with delinquent behavior on the part of Arlene. This, however, was overshadowed by the unwholesome father-daughter relationship in so far as Arlene seemed to be caught in a sado-masochistic pattern with him. It appeared that they were both involved in an unconscious attraction for each other which both were

consciously fighting against; father by his antagonistic, punitive handling of his daughter and Arlene by her hostility turned inward as a form of self-blame and punishment that was already leading her into sexual escapades that would involve punishment.

Father's unconscious feeling towards his daughter had been previously strengthened by his involvement in the war which had aroused more sexuality in his feeling towards Arlene because of his fellow officer's comments about his daughter's attractiveness. There was also the factor that his wife was not only obese, but for a time pregnant and therefore was not as appealing a sexual object to him as she would have been before.

Cases 3 and 4.

Irene, fifteen years old and Clara, fourteen years old, were two sisters of Portuguese parents who were referred for psychiatric treatment by the protective agency after the father was convicted and sentenced for having incestuous relations with both sisters and sex relations with other children in the neighborhood. The sisters were placed together in a foster home.

The sisters came from a decidedly unwholesome household. They were the oldest of nine children, the family having been previously known to the protective agency on a neighbor's complaint that there was not only serious neglect and lack of care and supervision in the home, but also that the children were being taught unwholesome sex practices. The economic condition was extremely poor because of the father's difficulty in earning a living as a fisherman.

The report from the prison psychiatrist revealed the father to be a man of dull normal intelligence who had very little appreciation of moral and social values and simply feared punishment in case he became involved

with the police again. He showed definite abnormal sexual tendencies, having a juvenile history of several sex offenses. While in prison he wrote threatening letters to his daughters complaining how they had hurt him by reporting his incestuous relations and how they were making their mother unhappy. He had absolutely no feelings of guilt for what he had done.

Because of the low moral standards under which she herself had been raised, and her own intellectual limitation, mother had very little understanding of the girls and their problems. She was felt to be a weak, confused, and inadequate woman, who, although she was aware of the father's incestuous relations, was so ineffectual that she was unable to do anything about it. She showed some devotion toward the children, but was completely unable to discipline them and also revealed that she would rather have father back than the children.

The school authorities felt that both girls were "sex teachers" among their classmates and because of their obscene language and stealing problems, they had to be watched closely.

The psychological testing revealed Irene to be a girl of low average intelligence who, at the time the tests were given, was a seriously disturbed girl. The Rorschach indicated a great deal of anxiety with some depressive features. Clara's tests showed her to be a girl of dull normal or borderline intelligence and, although the sex area appeared to be a source of some anxiety, it did not appear as traumatic as it was in her sister.

This same finding coincided with the impression obtained by the psychiatrist who saw both girls. Irene, who feared that she might be sent back home, was found to be an active adolescent girl who responded favorably to both treatment and to the new foster home environment. At the end of the clinic's contact it was felt that she was manifesting no signs of disturbance. Clara, however, did not give the impression of being very disturbed by the incestuous relations with her father and seemed much less affected by the home situation. She did not express any resentment towards her parents and when first taken out of the home she wanted immediately to go back to mother and hoped that father would soon be released. However, it was felt that given an adequate and normal home environment, Clara would also adjust readily. She did respond immediately to treatment and was also getting along well in the foster home where they were

both receiving the security and affection they needed.

The two sisters came from an exceedingly unwholesome family environment, with two immature and inadequate parents who were unable to carry out their familial responsibilities. Father's disturbed sexual tendencies made a conscious desire to have sexual relations with his daughters a reality. The sisters were unable to turn to their mother, who was too weak and ineffectual to perform any of the duties of motherhood. Their abnormal upbringing was already being felt in school and in their association with other children.

It is interesting to note, however, the reactions of the two sisters. Irene, the older, the prettier, and the more intelligent of the two, violently resisted her father's approaches and resented her mother's inability to cope with the situation. Clara, on the other hand, was not as disturbed and, although she made a good adjustment in the foster home, did not feel so antagonistic or hostile towards her parents.

Case 5.

Rita, a fourteen year old adolescent, was referred to the clinic by the protective agency who were concerned over her anxiety and fears of possible pregnancy. Rita was living at the agency's temporary shelter after she had complained to them that her father had attempted to have sexual relations with her. Her mother did not wish to prosecute because of the publicity involved. The family had previously been known to the protective agency five years ago when the father complained of an elderly neighbor having sex relations with Rita. Although physical examinations showed that she had been sexually abused, the charges were dropped. Three years later the agency

again became known to the family on a physician's complaint of the children's poor health and neglect.

The family group at the time of referral consisted of mother and seven children, ranging in ages from fourteen to two years. The father, who had recently been discharged from the Army, was not living with the family, but instead with his own parents. The family lived in a small squalid basement apartment, in almost unbearable living conditions.

The marital situation had always been unsatisfactory; a temporary separation having taken place during the early part of the marriage. The father had always been cruel and abusive to both mother and the children, especially Rita. Since his discharge from the Army, he had not looked for work, but instead received the Veteran's Readjustment Allowance. He saw the mother daily and would demand money and sexual relations from her. He vigorously denied the accusation of incest. Rita expressed bitter hatred of her father and always felt that he punished her much harder than the other children.

The mother, who was seen at the clinic, gave the impression of being quite dull and inadequate, although she did show a great deal of interest in her children, especially Rita's welfare. Just before the father returned from the service, the mother became illegitimately pregnant. It was felt, however, that she was not a promiscuous woman. Rita had a strong affection for her mother and they would confide a great deal in each other. Although Rita was definitely upset over her mother's illegitimate pregnancy, she accepted it with apathy and resignation, saying that everybody was entitled to a mistake.

Rita's school adjustment had never been good. Although she had average grades, she always seemed to be repressed and did not mix too well, remaining away from her classmates. The principal felt that she was "boy-crazy" and she associated with a group of boys and girls noted for their loose morals. She admitted having sex relations with some of these boys.

A foster home placement, which Rita had expressed a desire for, was felt advisable because of the many environmental pressures in the home. After the placement the visits to the clinic became rarer and her relationship assumed a superficial basis. Although at first she adjusted well to her foster home, and tried to keep away from her old crowd, they gradually sought her out and she began to get into trouble with boys. She became very sloppy, depressed, confused and unhappy, wanting to go back to her own home and having an "I don't care" attitude toward herself.

The results from the psychological tests found her to

be a passive, compliant girl of low average intelligence who was extremely constricted and rigid in her personality structure, supressing all her emotional spontaneity.

Rita was unable to identify and relate to any wholesome figure. He father was not only inacessible for a period when he was in military service, but was also a rejecting, unloving man whose physical abuse to her and mother caused Rita to react in a punishing, masochistic way of life. Her actions and stories suggested a burden of guilt which made her compulsively seek to destroy any happiness, by involving herself constantly in punishing situations. This was also shown by her incestuous fantasies, which were closely identified with her mother whose relationship was on more of a sister level. Mother was actually an inadequate, unwholesome person for Rita to form an adult object relationship with. Rita's own pregnancy fears, along with the usual adolescent fantasies, were also part of this strong identification.

Case 6

The protective agency referred Virginia, a sixteen year old girl of Armenian descent, because of her general confusion, fears, and anxieties. She was living in a foster home on a temporary basis after having been transferred from the training school for girls where she was placed by the Juvenile Court because of a sex delinquency charge. She had been apprehended by the police in a public park having intercourse with a boy.

Virginia, who is the oldest of ten siblings, comes from an exceedingly unwholesome home. There had been a serious marital problem for a good number of years, with constant friction and quarreling between parents, Virginia always being in the midst of it. Although the father had frequently talked of separation, he had never followed through with it. The language was bad, with

mother frequently losing control of her temper. The marriage itself was a forced one, and the mother, a slovenly housekeeper, appeared to have no understanding of home management. Virginia felt that her home was not clean and was ashamed to bring in her school friends.

Father was found to be a coarse, vulgar man; quite childish and immature in his reactions. It was felt that he was unable to assume responsibility, trying to control his children by being oversevere with them. He was hostile, antagonistic, and punitive to Virginia, always quarreling with her. His impression of his daughter was that she was "never any good" and, because of his fear that she would get into trouble with boys, did not allow any recreational activities. His idea of attempting to teach her the "facts of life" was to carry out the sex act with mother in front of Virginia. Mother would not consent to this. Virginia, however, had stated that on various occasions she had witnessed her parents having sexual intercourse.

The mother, who was pathetic in appearance, looked much older than her age. Before her marriage she was known to the probation department and the unmarried mother's home as a serious sex delinquent. She was felt to be a very excitable person, a chronic nagger, and completely inadequate as a mother. When seen at the clinic she constantly complained of her own troubles, showing little concern for her children. Although she appeared quite concerned over Virginia's welfare and felt that she was never involved in any other previous sex episode, she felt unable to give her adequate care and supervision.

Virginia herself expressed disgust for both parents and was ashamed of them. It was her strong desire to remain out of the home so that she would be able to continue on with school.

Her school adjustment was good until the ninth grade when she became so confused by the friction and conditions in the home that she decided to leave and go to work. Her father demanded that she finish and she finally became so undecided that she just stopped going and was therefore expelled on the basis of her poor attendance record. She remained around the home and it was during this time that this boy took her to the park. Her attitude toward this episode was one of embarrassment and shame. As she later explained to the psychiatrist, she had thought a little "petting" would be all right and that she would be able to control the situation.

When seen by the psychologist, it was felt that she was a seriously disturbed girl of probably low average intelligence, with a great deal of repressed hostility and aggression directed at various members of her

family. She had many fears and tended to resort to immature day dreaming.

Virginia's delinquent behavior was a result of an emotional strain over a long period of time surrounding her poor relationship with both parents. These inadequate parents, unhappy and unsuccessful in their own marriage, were unable to give Virginia any stable and secure support, especially through adolescence. She craved affection and her affair with the boy was one way of getting it. As she herself admitted, she liked the "petting" but detested and was ashamed of what followed. This is one example of a girl who involves herself in a heterosexual relationship but is unaware and unable to control the consequences. Her completely confused ideas of sex were not only distorted by her mother's inability to talk about such matters, but also by father's crude and unwholesome approach in this matter. This latter situation blends into the personality of a father who had definite unconscious desires concerning the sexuality of his daughter. Unable to get support from her mother, Virginia's only alternative was to leave home.

Case 7.

Joyce, who had just turned eighteen, was referred by the probation department. She was temporarily living at the training school for girls as a result of her commitment by the Juvenile Court because of involvement with the police on a sex delinquency charge.

Joyce was fifteen years old when her father, who had been paralyzed for three years, died and her mother took her and her two younger brothers to live

with the maternal grandparents. A year later mother remarried and set up housekeeping again. It was then that Joyce's delinquent behavior began. Although she was maintaining high honors in school, she began to truant and became defiant and disrespectful towards her mother. She began to stay out late at night, carrying on promiscuous behavior with older, disreputable men. Her stepfather, who refrained from disciplining her, took exception to this and refused to let Joyce finish high school because of her delinquent behavior. Joyce left home, living in a hotel, while working as a telephone operator. When she lost this job, she returned home, but soon left for New York. After living promiscuously there for a few months, she sought shelter with the police. Mother wired money to her, but she remained home for only a few weeks and then left to live in another city which was located near Army and Navy bases. After repeated trips back home with"boyfriends" for money, she was finally reported to the police by two servicemen for her promiscuous activities.

Joyce's mother, a large matronly looking woman, was eager to come to the clinic. Although she was uneasy and anxious over Joyce's present predicament, she, as well as her husband, did not want Joyce back home but instead felt that she should remain at the training school in order to get the necessary training and discipline. Mother said that she had been hurt too often by Joyce's repeated escapades, but later revealed that after seeing Joyce at the clinic, she felt that she had learned her lesson and, if not for the stepfather, she would accept her back home.

Mother seemed to show a maternal feeling for her daughter, although, as she explained, she was unable to express these feelings, such as hugging and kissing the children, now that they were grown up. It was also felt that mother's anxiety over Joyce's behavior was increased by the strain Joyce was placing on her present marriage; that her own security was in danger.

Joyce's stepfather was primarily concerned about his standing in the community, especially as to how Joyce's behavior affected it and felt that she would always be promiscuous.

Previous to Joyce's father's illness, there was a question of infidelity in the marital situation and he never showed much interest in his household. After his illness, however, he suddenly took a strong interest in the household affairs. Mother said that Joyce had a good relationship with him, and that she, along with her brothers, accepted his irritability caused by his

illness. Joyce never would associate with any school friends, especially girls, but instead would come home from school and care for her father. He was strict and severe in his discipline and never let the children out at night although they did not seem to object.

The psychological evaluation showed Joyce to be a girl of above average intelligence who was seriously disturbed. The Rorschach test revealed that latent homosexual trends were quite evident and that those urges appeared to have resulted in almost a panic reaction.

Joyce, when seen at the clinic, was felt to be a very "glib talker". She revealed that her present plans were to obtain her high school diploma and plan a career in the WACS which she felt would be a "mother substitute" for her. The latter objective was discouraged by the psychiatrist in light of her difficulties with women. Joyce also revealed her lack of pleasure in her sexual relationships.

A physical examination later showed what Joyce had always denied, but her mother was quite sure of, that she was four months pregnant.

She was therefore transferred to the home for unmarried mothers and it was felt advisable to discontinue treatment during her pregnancy.

Joyce's disturbed behavior goes back to her relationship with her real father for she was never able to solve adequately her Oedipal conflict. It was difficult to relate and identify successfully with mother who admitted being unable to show any love or affection. This attachment to father was strengthened by his sickness which caused Joyce to play the mother role while mother had to work. Father, although strict and stern, aided this unwholesome relationship by his abnormal interest in the upbringing of the children. With his departure at such a vital phase of her development, she carried out this drive to be with father-figures by promiscuous behavior with older men.

This apparently was precipitated by mother's remarriage. Although the case material did not reveal Joyce's feelings toward her stepfather, it was possible that her conflicting relationship with him had an influence on her delinquent behavior.

Her latent homosexual conflicts and fears influenced her difficulties with women and her recent sexual delinquency seemed to be an attempt to escape from her unconscious fears and conflicts surrounding her homosexual drives.

Case 8.

A policewoman referred Claire, an attractive, but sullen and suspicious fifteen year old girl, because of her stubborn and resentful attitude which had resulted in her staying out all night on two occasions and her poor adjustment in school. When found at the bus terminal soliciting sailors late at night, she was turned over to her mother, who, instead of being understanding, punished her and continued to complain to the police about Claire's behavior.

Claire lived in a very strict and severe household and was always quarreling with her father. The parents apparently got along fairly well, but Claire was extremely resentful of her seven year old brother who, she felt, was definitely favored. She was resentful of the fact that her parents felt she should not go out of the house at all and would retaliate by walking out of the home, picking up sailors, and returning any time she pleased.

The parents at first did not want Claire seen at the clinic but finally consented to come. The father was found to be a stern and brutal man, unyielding in his control of Claire. He did not approve of her friends and appeared very jealous of her outside relationships. He said that he had lost his patience and washed his hands of the whole affair, leaving all of Claire's management to her mother. Previously he handled all of the discipline, swearing and whipping her severely. Claire expressed hatred of her father, recoiling from him almost in horror. She felt that she could not remain at home and what she said implied that her

> father's attitude toward her was a combination of cruelty and sadistic eroticism.
>
> The mother, who appeared to be an immature, and ineffectual woman, was unable to carry out her ideas of handling a child. Her own upbringing was severe and she seemed to have no understanding of her daughter, simply punishing her for everything. Throughout all of her contact with the clinic, she did not have one good word to say of her daughter. She felt that Claire was "Navy-crazy" and was sure that she was promiscuous. She, too, wanted to wash her hands of the whole affair and have Claire "locked up". Claire in turn, was resentful and defiant towards her mother, never confiding in her, not even when she returned from her running away episodes.
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> As the parents continued to be seen at the clinic, they became somewhat more lenient in their strict discipline and attitude. Father finally allowed her to go out with her friends, and mother also seemed to have loosened the reins somewhat, although they were still apprehensive.
>
> Although Claire reported being happier when the case was closed, a newspaper article, a year later, reported that she was sent to the training school for girls on a charge of being a common street-walker.

Family rebellion and defiance, which is often seen in adolescence, as the girl struggles to free herself from family ties, was intensified in this case as strict, harsh discipline was forced on Claire. In retaliation she completely disobeyed them. Her mother appeared to be projecting her own severe childhood on to Claire. Father's restrictive and punitive attitude in keeping her away from social activities and male companions seemed to hinge upon his own unconscious seduction wishes. Everything in the family seemed to indicate to Claire complete rejection and with the approach of adolescence, her rebellious behavior was increased by promiscuous activities.

It is apparent that the parents only accepted on an intellectual level this change of attitude towards Claire, for the pattern soon reverted back to its old form, culminating in Claire's commitment.

Summarizing statement on Group I:

In the vast majority of cases the father's personality and attitude toward their daughters represented, in varying degrees of intensity, those men with unconscious or conscious feelings about their daughter's sexuality. The reaction of the girls depended, to a great extent, on the relationship with their mothers. In most of the cases the girls were unable to find in their mothers the secure and stable support so essential in allowing them to form a wholesome adult identification. The result was either to run away or stay out at night, carrying out promiscuous behavior as part of their rebellion and resentment, or to return to an unwholesome relationship with father with the resulting conflicts that lead into promiscuity. In cases where the girl was able to turn to mother, the identification was an unwholesome one.

GROUP II

Case 9.

Mary was eleven years old when she first became known to the clinic after being referred by her mother at the suggestion of the school department. At that time she was a serious behavior problem in school because of her stealing and inability to get along with her classmates. Mother later revealed that she was uncontrollable at home and had run

away a few times.

Mary came from a family that was financially well off and maintained a high cultural standard. The parents came from two old southern families and both had attended college. Although the father was a high salaried salesman, the war was affecting his sales and he gave the impression of being a typical tired, conventional, business man. Four years previously, a baby brother was born to the family. The marital relationship was strained, not only because of father's irritability due to business worries, but also because of mother's depreciation of her husband, who was not a financial success. They had no common interest between them and mother felt frustrated in never being able to have her own business career.

When mother was seen at the clinic, it was felt that she was an intelligent, educated woman who was unable to give any warmth or affection. Her own parents had an early divorce and after both had remarried, she divided her vacations from boarding school between both parents, never actually having a home for herself. She felt that Mary was "devilish" the way she used to be, but could not understand Mary's behavior as "she has a home and both parents". She had a great deal of feeling for racial tolerance and democracy and constantly tried to prove to Mary that Negroes, Italians, etc. were her equal and for that reason did not send her to a private school. Mary in turn, was defiant toward mother, would steal money"for revenge", and would never confide in her.

Father, who now feels that Mary is a spoiled child who needs a good spanking, previously felt that she was the "apple of his eye". While mother was in the hospital giving birth to Mary's brother, friends spoke to him about his overindulgence and told him that he was spoiling her. He therefore changed his solicitous attitude practically overnight and became very stern. Mother was in the hospital for three months and it was then that Mary's behavior changed.

Mother carried on her relationship at the clinic in an impersonal, conventional, and rather pseudo literary way and finally declined to return after the summer vacation.

Three years later the case was reopened once again when the Catholic Charities Bureau requested that Mary be seen. The previous summer Mary had got very much out of hand, hanging around cafes and

> associating with people of undesirable reputation. In order to get her out of the community, her parents sent her to a private school out of the community. She told her teacher that she was afraid that she was pregnant and admitted having sex relations during the summer. Mary was sent home, but she ran away. Although father was concerned about her behavior, mother was more concerned that Mary had told the teacher first.
>
> Mary was not seen at the clinic, however, for the maternal grandparents, upon hearing about the situation, immediately came from their home in a neighboring state and after a family conference insisted on taking Mary back home where she could attend a private school and also be attended by a private psychiatrist.

Mary was never able to relate to mother who, because of her own disturbed childhood, was unable to give the warmth and affection that is needed by children throughout all the stages of growth. Mary was at first able to overcome this rejection by turning to father and not adjusting her early Oedipal situation. But with father's sudden desertion (his abrupt change of attitude) which was even more seriously felt, for it was at the time of brother's birth, Mary had no alternative but to express her total feeling of rejection through disturbing behavior at home, at play, and at school. It was quite apparent that this family situation never changed. As she entered adolescence, with the increased sexual drives, her delinquent behavior took on a sexual aspect. In retaliation for the rejection of mother who never allowed Mary to identify or relate to her, she went out with men of much lower social and cultural standards - the very people mother had always taught her to accept as

equals. Father apparently still maintained the attitude that she was just a spoiled child and Mary could never find any support or affection on his part.

Case 10.

Dorothy, a seventeen year old adolescent, was asked to be seen by her father because she was "unmanageable . keeps the wrong company, can't think straight or do right from wrong, and is making a nervous wreck out of both of us".

Father appeared to be an extremely harassed person who was meticulous in his appearance. He was constantly worried about his health and had been sick for the past two years although the doctor could find nothing physically wrong with him other than his "nerves". He complained that there were always difficulties with Dorothy but they had reached a crisis in adolescence. He felt that they had always done "too much for Dorothy", their only child, having given her the "best" of every opportunity and every material thing. Although he previously said that he plans to take a trip out west by himself for his health, he later said that he plans to sell all of his property and give up his job as an accountant because he can't stand living in the same situation with Dorothy. It was his wish that she remain in school and "stay clean". At the end of five interviews he finally did leave for a trip out west.

After father left, her mother was seen at the clinic. Dorothy and her mother broke up their home and went to live with her maternal grandparents where the tension increased. Dorothy hated the enforced intimacy with her mother as she had to sleep in the same bed with her and resented the strict supervision of her grandparents. This all resulted in her constantly being at odds with them, rebelling by being defiant and sulky and going out at night with undesirable men.

She showed little interest or concentration in school and although she was in her last year at high school, was not going to graduate because she was doing so poorly. She never had any close friends and would have only one girl friend at a time and then only for a short period. Her parents felt that she never wanted to be with ordinary children or do what they like to do. The results of her tests showed her to be a girl of normal intelligence.

> When mother was seen at the clinic she too gave the impression of being an extremely neurotic and nervous person. She was always very ambitious and had always owned her own beauty shop. She never gave to Dorothy very much warmth, being pretty well occupied with her business and social affairs. Yet she couldn't understand what had gone wrong because they had tried to give her so many "things" and had never been strict with her. She felt that Dorothy was always willful, defiant, negatavistic and admitted being unable to cope with her. She impressed the worker as a mother who would attempt to supervise Dorothy and try to get her to do something and getting very upset when she rebelled.
>
> It was decided that treatment for Dorothy would be more suitable in an adult psychiatric clinic, especially in view of the nature of her problem, but more specifically since mother had washed her hands of the matter and did not wish to return.

Dorothy appeared never to have adequately resolved her Oedipal conflict. Not only during adolescence, but all through childhood, she was never able to form any satisfactory relationship with mother who was too busy with her business ventures and social activities. Her conception of being a good mother was to see that Dorothy received all the material things of life. Dorothy, therefore, was never able to adjust and resolve her strong attachment to her father, who apparently fostered this unwholesome situation by his intense interest in her moral and recreational activities.

With the approach of adolescence, she began to seek as male companions, not friends of her own age, but older men-father figures. The departure of father only intensified this behavior, for it placed her into enforced intimacy with mother with whom she not only was unable to identify and

relate to, but detested. As part of her rebellion against her family and as part of her unresolved Oedipal situation, she carried out this promiscuous behavior.

Case 11.

Gladys was fourteen years old when she was last referred to the clinic by the protective agency because of truancy, disciplinary problem in school, and uncontrollable behavior. Two years previous she had been referred by her teacher and, although she was seen only twice, the clinic felt that her overdemands for love and attention reflected real affect hunger. The present situation arose when the police called in the protective agency after the mother had constantly complained of Gladys' behavior. She was placed in their temporary shelter home and during this time was studied at the New England Home for Little Wanderers. Upon her return, she was tried out in a succession of foster homes, all failures and finally committed to the Children's Center (State Home and School). While at the center, Gladys was seen at the clinic.

Gladys' mother and father had separated during the early part of their marriage, which finally ended in a divorce. Father spent most of his time in the Merchant Marine and rarely saw the children. Mother placed Gladys when she was two years old, along with an older sister, in a convent, while she went to work as an attendant in a state institution. At the convent, where she remained for seven years, she was extremely unhappy and, according to her and her mother, was mistreated. After obtaining a job at the local shipyard, mother brought the children back into her home. Because of constant friction between her and her mother, she was placed in a series of foster homes which were all unsuccessful. She was always forced by her inner compulsions to gain her mother's love at any cost; so that she would behave in such a manner as to be returned home again into a vicious cycle where hostility was met with hostility and rejection.

Her mother, when seen at the clinic, was felt to be not only rejecting of Gladys, but of her own feminine role. She was the product of divorced parents, having spent most of her childhood in the same convent and admitted marrying hastily in order to get away from an unhappy home situation. She much preferred that someone else have the responsibility for Gladys' care and her attitude toward her was of complete rejection with inconsistent and punitive discipline.

> Gladys in turn was completely defiant, as evidenced by her petty stealing in the home and refusal to attend school. Although she had this strong drive to return home, her description of the household was unwholesome, saying that mother was always having various disreputable men in the house, together with wild drinking parties.
>
> Gladys appeared to be uncertain, insecure, and unhappy and could not get along with other girls. While at the Children's Center she made two very childish attempts at suicide which appeared to the psychiatrist as attention getting devices. She finally refused to return to the clinic when they did not conform to her wish to return to another foster home. At that time a diagnosis as a psychopathic personality with paranoid features was given, with a poor prognosis for future development.
>
> A year later she voluntarily returned to the clinic for one visit because she was deeply disturbed and unhappy. Her mother had thrown her out of the house after Gladys had refused to marry a twenty-two year old boy with whom she had submitted to sexual intercourse. She remained in her maternal aunt's home for only a few days because she claimed that her uncle tried to intoxicate her and sexually abuse her. She was now temporarily living in a Catholic Training School for Girls awaiting a foster home placement. Gladys was particularly upset because of pregnancy fears.
>
> When Gladys was seen by the clinical psychologist, he found her to be a girl of low average intelligence, seriously disturbed with a great deal of anxiety and hostility. She was extremely inhibited and was sacrificing her emotional spontaneity.

Gladys' complete childhood was devoid of all the natural and vital family elements required for normal emotional growth. When returned to her mother she was met with hostility and total rejection, to which she naturally reacted. Unable to obtain the love and affection through normal channels, she attempted to obtain this attention through neurotic and infantile methods as was indicated by her delinquent behavior. Her life in restrictive environment

made it extremely difficult to live in a family group. Gladys' relationship with her mother appears to be causing her to follow her mother's own early pattern of life.

The absence of a father figure throughout all her life made it extremely difficult for her to relate adequately to male figures as was evidenced by her unsuccessful relationships.

Case 12.

Phyllis, a seventeen year old girl, was referred by the probation department after she had remained away from home one night and on her father's request was picked up by the police sleeping in a boyfriend's home, She had gone to the movies, was picked up by two strange boys, and after visiting various bars and taverns, refused to go home and insisted on going home with one of these boys. She refused to return home and was very belligerent toward her parents who also did not want her back. She was therefore sent to the training school for girls.

Phyllis came from a household where there was absolutely no home life. The cold, victorian atmosphere in the family was augmented by an aged father (he was twenty years older than his wife) whose "old-country" ideas demanded absolute quiet in the household. Although externally (to the neighbors) the marital situation seemed fair, mother's remarks indicated a strained relationship. Phyllis' older sister, who was twelve years her senior, appeared completely broken by the parental attitude. She was "old maidish", had no friends, and just sat at home never participating in any recreational activities. She appeared to have much more maternal feeling for Phyllis than her mother and Phyllis in turn spoke with great warmth of her.

Phyllis' father, who seemed to take a very paternal attitude towards his wife, like that of an old European patriarch, owned a prosperous shoe repairing business in the community. He was a strict man who seemed very unyielding in his attitude. He never allowed Phyllis to have any friends in the home and because of the wide difference in age, seemed to have absolutely no relationship with her. Phyllis

was antagonistic and hostile towards her father and rebellious against his puritanical attitude.

Mother was found to be quite erratic and nervous in both her speech and actions, and was described by Phyllis as a cold, punishing person. She seemed more concerned about what the neighbors would think and was antagonistic towards her daughter because of her promiscuous behavior. Although she would at times side with Phyllis when father would abuse her, she appeared to have little maternal feeling for her daughter. Phyllis complained bitterly of her mother's lack of understanding.

Phyllis' progress at school was normal until the tenth grade when she reached sixteen years of age and left school without telling her parents. She had no friends at school, never any special girl friend and seemed somewhat of a "lone wolf", always chasing boys. She obtained working papers but only worked a few weeks. She remained out of work, but was never at home, spending most of her time at the movies. She admitted having considerable sex experiences with boy friends since she was thirteen years of age, but insisted that sex relations did not mean anything to her, although she didn't mind submitting to her boy friend's desires.

Phyllis was resistive during her contacts at the clinic saying, "I want what I want. I do not like to be with girls. I just want to do a thing on the impulse of the moment". Although her condition was felt to be unimproved, she was released from the training school, and after an unsuccesful try at a boarding home, she was returned home.

When seen by the psychologist, Phyllis was found to be a girl of low average intelligence, functioning below capacity. Although the evidence of homosexual conflicts, projection, and lack of affect suggested a strong paranoid component, her present contact with reality was excellent and it could not be considered a psychotic record.

This decidedly unwholesome household, where there was no understanding or feeling of an adolescent's needs, was having a definite effect on Phyllis' disturbed personality. Her general unhappiness and feeling of loneliness caused her to become involved in a great deal of fantasy

Which led her into promiscuous activities. There was absolutely no association with father and the relationship that she had with mother was a poor one because of mother's cold, punishing attitude.

Her only positive relationship was with her sister, but this alone was not sufficient to alleviate her rebellious and unhappy behavior.

Case 13.

Grace, a thirteen year old girl was living at the temporary shelter home of the protective agency when she was referred for a diagnostic study as to future placement. Her mother had previously requested that the police investigate the home Grace was supposed to be working for as a baby-sitter. The house was traced to a disreputable section of the city and they found Grace and her girl friend, actually baby-sitting, but also intoxicated and being sexually abused by a boarder in this home

At the shelter Grace appeared to have very little training and was constantly trying to display herself to the younger children. Her behavior indicated a long period of having her own way without much respect for authority.

Grace's father died two years ago because of a heart condition. Previous to this, however, the marital situation was never a happy one, accentuated by father's drinking. Grace got along well with her father and at his death bed made an oath to him that she would always take care of her mother and be a good girl. She therefore demanded that she be returned home because "mother needs me".

Mother owned a boarding house and during the day was a cook for a private family. She had a "boy friend" a boarder in the home who practically ran the family. Grace expressed fear and hostility toward this man, saying that he would often use physical punishment on her, with mother's approval. At the clinic she kept repeating how happy she had been before the boarder came a year ago.

Grace's mother, when seen at the clinic, had an attitude of great discouragement and defeat. She had had a strict parental upbringing with no privileges

and constantly compared this to the many material benefits that she had given Grace. Her attitude toward her daughter had been that of definite rejection and overt hostility. She once remarked that her love goes in the following order: Her dog, her boy friend, and Grace. She was very punitive to her, although never able adequately to discipline her. She constantly complained to the police and school authorities of Grace's behavior, especially with sailors, once remarking that if Grace ever came home pregnant, she would kill her. Whenever she wouldn't behave, she would ask to have Grace placed in a foster home.

Grace was ambivalent in her feelings toward her mother. She felt guilty over having failed her mother by not being good and by leaving her. Yet she had been able to bring out a good deal of hostility towards her who she felt was easily influenced by others, especially by her boy friend.

Grace related very poorly to her classmates and would truant quite often. There were unconfirmed reports by the school authorities of sex episodes with young men.

The psychologist found Grace to be a girl of average intelligence "whose total performance more resembles the type of individuals frequently characterized as psychopathic, but whose social behavior results from absence of adequate love relationships." She had strong feelings of guilt for her past behavior and showed a conscious desire to be given another chance.

Grace, although still being seen at the clinic, was returned home. The previous family situation continued, with mother complaining to everybody in authority about her activities. Grace had been staying out of school and was seen loitering near taverns. She had the attitude of trusting no one and present in her behavior was the feeling of guilt and need for punishment. She was referred to a family agency, with the hope that a worker would be able to represent an accepting ego and super ego identification for her.

Grace was an emotionally deprived child who all her life suffered from rejection and reacted to it. Although her relationship with father may have been an insecure one because of the marital friction that had prevailed, it may have been better than none at all. For there was no adult

figure present who was able to give her the necessary support and affection. Her mother, who was completely rejecting, made it impossible for Grace to relate and identify with her as a wholesome adult figure. Mother's hostility toward her daughter was further intensified by Grace's possible threat as a competing female for mother's boy friend who was much younger than mother. However, Grace, who had fantasied that life was wonderful when she had mother all to herself, lost all faith and hope when mother allowed this intruder to control the family.

The sacred oath made to her father carried a great deal of guilt as she uncontrollably reacted to her mother's hostility. This feeling of guilt and need for punishment was present in her frequent incidents involving the police.

Case 14.

Alice was sixteen years old when she was last referred to the clinic by the Children's Friends Society for future placement plans. But actually she had been known to the clinic since she was ten years old. Her first referral was made by a family agency because of her stealing, lying, and uncontrollable behavior. Four years later she was again referred by that agency for the same complaints plus mother's accusations that Alice was having sexual experiences with a delinquent group of boys.

Alice's home was completely controlled by mother. Although the parents seemed very close to each other and there was no marital discord, father has been in continued poor health for many years which resulted in not only a limitation of his earning capacity, but also in the relinquishment of his duties as head of the household. Alice's younger brother was feebleminded, while her older brother had definite neurotic symptoms and was under psychiatric treatment. Her older sister, two years her senior, was described as an inhibited, prig-

gish person who was always considered the "good" girl. Alice was constantly being compared unfavorably to her.

Alice's father, when he was able to maintain his position in the household, appeared to be a much better disciplinarian. Alice felt that she obeyed him best, but now that her father was sick, mother was "boss now." His work caused him to tire easily and he was sensitive about his physical condition and the fear of losing his job.

Mother gave the impression of being an immature, tense and hostile person, incapable of handling her children. She was unable to face her own inadequacies and refused to admit any failure on her part. Her insecurity and lack of confidence in caring for her children probably resulted from her own experience as a child. She revealed that she was very much afraid of being like her own mother who was cruel and abusive. In trying not to be like her own sadistic mother, she was unable to place any limitations on the children's behavior. She had always been critical of Alice, thoroughly rejecting her and blaming her for all the friction in the home. She was always expecting the worse of her and was constantly trying to prove to others that Alice was a "thoroughly bad girl".

Alice had great resentment against her mother whom she described as ineffectual and inconsiderate towards her. She felt that nobody in the family had a real interest in her and that she was the butt of all the family quarrels.

Alice's school performance was characterized by lack of affect. She constantly complained that nobody liked her. Although she received poor school reports, she was never disturbed about them.

During the previous contact, when Alice was fourteen years old, mother expressed dissatisfaction because the clinic did not punish Alice and she proceeded to have her placed on probation, and sent to the training school for girls. Although it was against Alice's wishes, the probation department requested that the clinic withdraw from the case. After a year at the school she was returned home, but mother soon asked that she be placed in a wage home. She did not keep this job long because of her uncleanliness and was returned home, resuming her old acquaintances. She admitted having more sexual experiences with some of these boys. At the clinic she was vacillating about returning to school or taking on a job as a governess. She decided that she would return to school and take a part time job. Contact was not continued although it was felt that Alice was a very confused girl with many fears and anxieties and that she should be placed in a foster home.

As Alice became more unmanageable because of mother's inability to discipline her adequately, mother became more irritable; and this irritation not only blocked her from showing any affection, but caused her to be overtly rejecting of Alice. She was therefore unable to relate to mother especially during adolescence when identification on an adult level with one's mother is so important. Father, because of his concern over his illness and his withdrawal as head of the household, was too ineffectual to be a secure support for Alice. Unable to associate with either parent through the normal conflicts of adolescence, she became a confused girl with many fears and anxieties whose only resource was to remain out of the home and find consolation with her neighborhood gang. Her association with these delinquent friends soon carried her into sexual escapades.

Summarizing statement on Group II:

Because of the various expressions of rejection shown by the mothers, the girls were denied their love needed for emotional growth and the opportunity of forming an adult object relationship with them. If their fathers were equally rejecting and had a poor understanding of their daughters, or of there was no father in the home to turn to, then the usual alternative was rebellion and delinquent behavior outside of the home. In the cases where the fathers were equally immature, but showed an abnormal interest, the

girls formed unwholesome relationships with them, with the resulting conflicts.

It is interesting to note the similarity in the behavior manifested by the girls in each group. In both groups the girls were defiant, antagonistic, and hostile toward their parents and this rebellion was shown by their delinquent behavior in the community. The types of delinquency varied so vividly in each group that actually no significant difference could be found between the two of them. It was, however, evident that there was a predominance of running away episodes in the first group. It was shown that the vast majority of these harsh and punitive fathers appeared to have unconscious feelings toward their daughter's sexuality. The girls' usual reaction to this unwholesome relationship was flight.

GROUP III

Case 15.

Barbara, a fourteen year old adolescent, was referred to the clinic by the protective agency because of her running away episodes, petty stealing and uncontrollable behavior in the home. The present situation arose when she ran away from home and her father requested help from the police. She was found with another girl, whose home she was living in, stealing dresses from five and ten cent store. At the time of referral, she was living at the protective agency's shelter home.

The family constellation consisted of Barbara, three older brothers, all in the military service, and her father, an elderly man in his sixties. Her mother had died of blood poisoning when she was seven months old and she wassubsequently cared for by her older brothers. Because his job as a night watchman kept the father out of the home during most of the evening

Barbara was left pretty much on her own. Neighbors had reported visits by older men and sailors as well as Barbara's smoking and drinking.

Barbara never got along with her brothers, especially the youngest, and said that she left home because he was home on furlough and trying to "boss" her. Her brothers often accused her of being responsible for her mother's death, which always upset her.

Father, who was respected in the community, was quite eccentric in appearance which was accentuated by long flowing white hair. He had previously taught school when younger, but was now quite senile in many respects and though well meaning, was really not capable of caring for Barbara. Although he was quite protective and faithfully visited her at the shelter, he was still controlling, disapproving, and critical in his attitude toward her.

Barbara's guilt over her mother's death made her feel responsible in caring for her father and acting as his companion. At first she firmly desired to go back home, but later gave up the idea of returning after the psychiatrist took an active stand in helping her realize there was no basis for this responsibility since her birth had no connection with her mother's death.

While living at the shelter home, she appeared to have a good surface adjustment, quite sophisticated, polite, and charming; but did not relate to anybody.

On the clinic's recommendation she was placed in a foster home. Although she was making a fair adjustment, she had to be moved twice because in each case the foster mother became jealous of her husband's interest in Barbara. In her third home, she soon became dissatisfied because of the role she was forced to play as that of a maid. This became intolerable when the daughter would entertain classmates that Barbara also knew. After a few weeks she impulsively accompanied a former girl friend to another state. The older girl soon left her and, because she could not get working papers, being a minor and of school age, she began to live promiscuously with a young man who had a criminal record. Discovered by the police, she was returned and sent to the training school for girls. When seen at the clinic again, her whole attitude was one of discomfort at having displeased the psychiatrist, but without any guilt as to her behavior. She resentfully complained that all of this would never have happened had she had a mother.

She did not wish to return to school, having had too much experience of an adult nature. Work possibilities did not appeal to her, her preference being simply to

hang around, not having any responsibility. At this time a diagnosis of psychopathic personality was definitely made. She presented a veneer of smoothness and social charm, but was completely superficial and emotionally flat. Although she probably would not be happy, it was felt that she would continue to need and possibly respond to the kind of supervision and control which was possible at the training school for girls.

Barbara was raised in a seriously ingrown household that was wanting of any maternal supervision and love; in an atmosphere where each member was living of and for himself, never knowing consistency or fair restraint. Her guilt over her mother's death placed her in an unwholesome relationship with her father. His age and eccentricity made it impracticable for him adequately to understand and care for a young girl. She was never able adequately to adjust to her Oedipal situation and consequently was always looking for father figures, which was expressed through her promiscuous behavior with older men and sailors. This was also seen by her probable unconscious seduction of her foster fathers.

When she did find herself stranded in a strange city, and having had had no social or moral training, she proceeded to carry on a promiscuous life as her only logical resort, without any sense of guilt.

Case 16.

Sally was seventeen years old when she was referred by the protective agency for psychiatric study and treatment because of sexual delinquency and running away episodes. Sally's parents had obtained a legal separation during the early part of their marriage and mother had placed the children, Sally and a sister, in foster homes. Both parents died shortly thereafter

and the children became wards of the state. Sally spent most of her life in the home of two foster "aunts". It was while she was attending high school, living with these "aunts" that she began to sneak out at night, having sexual relations with a boy friend. When it was discovered that she was pregnant, she was placed in a home for unmarried mothers. During her stay there, however, she had an appendectomy which also resulted in a miscarriage. After being returned to the "aunts", she was referred to the clinic.

Sally lived in two foster homes as a young child before being placed in the "aunts" home. She was loved by the two "aunts" and she in turn showed great affection. However, because of a complaint by neighbors that Sally was having "immoral practices", she was taken out of this home despite the fact that these charges were unfounded and that the foster "aunts" were heart broken. She was then placed in another home and remained there for two and one half years where she adjusted very well and there were no complaints of conduct. The foster "aunts", through great financial sacrifice, finally moved out of their neighborhood so that they could have Sally back. At first the previous harmonious relationship existed, but as she entered the adolescent stage of growth she began to quarrel frequently with the "aunts" and disobeyed them. She would stay out much later than given permission to do, and felt that they were critical and overmanaging. The "aunts" sent her back to the protective agency because she once stayed out overnight, but immediately asked for her back. It was on their request also that she was returned to their home after her stay in the hospital.

The foster "aunts" were two devoted, but overprecise, spinsterish women, who, although not related to each other, had been devoted friends for many years. Although they loved the child very much, they never wanted to take legal steps to adopt her because of their age. The atmosphere in the home was very quiet and old fashioned. They had no interest in social activities, other than church affairs and never encouraged Sally to take part in anything else. One of the "aunts" was a saleslady for one of the big department stores in the city.

Sally always made a good adjustment in school and enjoyed her relationships with her classmates. Although her grades were only average, she had outstanding artistic ability. She revealed to the clinic that she was entirely ignorant about sex and it was not until she told her "aunts" that she hadn't menstruated for three months that she discovered that she was pregnant.

After her return from the hospital she continued her same uncontrollable behavior, staying out late at night, etc.. Sally was not as concerned about her pregnancy as would be normal for a girl and said that she was no longer interested in the boy. It was felt that perhaps the "aunts" were now especially strict with her because of her previous sexual conduct. It was the clinic's impression that Sally, however, had enough innate vitality and independence, so that this pressure from the "aunts" would not prevent her from reaching maturity, providing that she could have some guidance.

On a follow up report from the protective agency it was revealed that a year later Sally left the state to work at a summer resort, and while there had married.

Sally's foster "aunts" were trying to make a plaything out of her and had a vigorous, unconscious resistance in having her grow up into normal, healthy womanhood. Previously this relationship was acceptable to Sally, but as she entered adolescence, with the drive to be independent and to break away from infantile ties, she rebelled against this resistance. As she attempted to liberate herself, the aunts became more demanding and strict. One means of disobedience was sneaking out at night and with her lack of sex instruction, she soon became involved in a sexual escapade.

The resistance on the part of the "aunts" was similar to that of many parents who hate to see their children grow up. But in this case it was probably much stronger and more determined because of the relative emptiness of their lives of any interest except Sally.

Case 17.

Doris, a fifteen year old girl of Italian-English parentage, was referred to the clinic by the Traveler's Aid Society at the suggestion of their New York chapter. Six months ago Doris had run away to New York and had

taken a room with a nurse telling her that she was married to a serviceman. During this time her parents conducted an anxious but fruitless search for her. They finally received a telephone call from the warden of a New York reformatory saying that they were holding Doris after the nurse had become suspicious of her actions and finally reported Doris' promiscuous behavior. A physical examination revealed that she was infected with gonorrhea.

Both parents were eager for help at the clinic and were at a loss as to why Doris got into all this trouble. They presented a very positive picture to the clinic, revealing a very happy marriage and sound, close family group. Doris had an older sister and a brother who was in the Navy.

The mother, a slim, anxious looking woman impressed the worker as being unusually thoughtful and intelligent. Because she herself was entirely ignorant about sex when she was married, she always attempted to explain sexual matters when the opportune occasions would arise. She had worked during most of her marriage to supplement the father's earnings. However, she always tried to arrange her hours so that she could be with her children, and when this was not possible, the paternal grandmother took care of them. The grandmother was also quite understanding and accepting of the situation upon Doris' return.

Doris' mother said that she had been inclined to "fly off the handle" and at times even to scold and whip the children as punishment. She impressed the worker, however, as having extreme warmth and anxiety over Doris' welfare and was singularly forgiving and understanding in her attitude, stating that the only way to help was by loving and accepting her.

Doris' father, according to his wife, was a very kind, fine and gentle man who was never cruel or harsh to his children. He was equally as anxious over Doris' welfare as her mother. Doris' sister, who was two years her senior, was at first somewhat critical of her behavior and the trouble she caused her parents. But this attitude soon changed after her mother had explained the necessity of understanding and accepting her. Both sisters became very companionable and frequently went out together on dates.

While Doris was being seen at the clinic, she constantly reported an attitude of very great understanding and tolerance on the part of her parents and appeared very appreciative of this.

Doris' difficult behavior started about a year and a half previous to her referral. She started to truant from school and began running around with sailors in

> the city and staying out late at night. She would stop this behavior for temporary periods after her mother would scold and punish her. She once ran away after her mother had whipped her for lying about staying out late at night with a sailor, and she was found soliciting sailors at a bus terminal. Although mother allowed her, upon the guidance teacher's advice, to bring her friends, including sailors into the home, Doris' erratic behavior continued. Finally, after stealing money and jewelry from her home, she ran away to New York.
>
> Doris could give no explanation for her previous behavior. Previously mother had thought her behavior was just the usual disturbance that adolescent girls go through.
>
> While being seen at the clinic, Doris did not attempt to carry out the previous type of behavior that had disturbed her mother. She insisted that she had no further desire to run away or for any more sexual escapades.
>
> The clinic was extremely impressed with the extraordinarily intelligent and understanding way that the whole family group had apparently handled Doris and her problems. It was felt that their acceptance of her and their very deep warmth and and sympathy were certainly very unusual.

This is one record in which no apparent deficiency in the parent-child relationship could be determined as a major influence in the girl's temporary delinquent behavior. Doris' parents, sister, and even her grandmother impressed the staff by their unusual understanding, love, and acceptance of her while she was being seen at the clinic, and felt that this relationship had probably also existed before her delinquent acts began. Perhaps this is one situation that actually did develop from the uniform hysteria among some adolescent girls during the war. For it is understandable that the war, like any other crisis "affects the young girl's fantasy life . . . influences the contents of her

fantasies and strengthens her urge to realize them in action."[1] As her mother thoughtfully remarked, "Perhaps if it hadn't been for the war, Doris would have gone through normal adolescence."

Summarizing statement on Group III:

The girls in the first two cases were showing normal reactions to very abnormal environments. Sally, however, was able to receive love and affection from her guardians during childhood, which probably gave her enough emotional strength to help her overcome, with some guidance, her conflicts during adolescence. Barbara, because she had never known any semblance of love, affection, or normal upbringing by any adult, became a seriously disturbed personality.

The last case was presented to show that in some situations the environmental or social influences may be strong enough to offset a normal family relationship so that the adolescent's emotional upheaval is intensified into delinquent behavior.

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1 Helene Deutsch, M.D., The Psychology of Women, Vol. I, P.109.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The social case records of seventeen adolescent or pre-adolescent girls who were referred to the Providence Child Guidance Clinic because of delinquent behavior which included sexual delinquency, have been the subject of this study. So far as possible, comparable information from each record was obtained through the use of a schedule specifically designed for this purpose. A review of some of the salient theories and concepts of adolescence and sexual delinquency presented by various social work and psychiatric authors was given as background information. The group has been analyzed as a whole and individually. The case presentations were divided into three groups; not specifically to indicate common causative factors, but to show the individual family relationships encountered with adolescents who had at least one parent with fairly homogenous personality traits and attitudes. Because of the variability in the parent-child relationships, the writer felt that it was necessary to present each individual case for a clearer understanding of the conclusions that may be drawn from this study. These factual and theoretical findings, which the writer feels may be concluded from this analysis, are as follows:

All of the girls in the group, except one, exhibited disturbed behavior problems prior to their sexual delinquent

acts which, in turn, served to intensify their conflicts. This was evident not only from the material found in the social case records, but in the variety of behavior problems besides sex misdemeanors, given at the time of referral. Running away episodes, stealing, and uncontrollable behavior at home were the predominating forms of behavior disturbances. As was seen in a previous study on sexual delinquency, the parents were reluctant to refer their daughters for clinical treatment and it was only after an authoritative agency became involved in the case that they were eventually seen.

The motivations and needs in the behavior of the girls studied, varied considerably. In each case the deeper motives for the girl's delinquent behavior depended upon her past and present attitudes and relationships with both parents. Since these relationships differed in each case the writer feels that it would be difficult to classify any specific motive.

It was evident, however, that in the cases where the father's strict, punitive and unrealistic demands on his daughter was part of his own disturbed feelings toward her sexuality, the girl's promiscuous behavior was often intensified by running away episodes.

The mean age of the group was fifteen, which compared favorably to the mean school grade which was the ninth. All except one, who were tested, were classified in the three

various degrees of normal intelligence and this probably aided their ability to remain in the average grade even though the vast majority did not adjust well with their classmates. However, the girls who had reached the maximum school age requirement dropped out of school as their delinquent behavior began to seriously interfere with their desire to remain in class. Nine members of the group found it very difficult to relate and adjust to people of their own age, having practically no friends at all. In only two households were there any definite reports of harmonious marital relationships, while a majority of the parents evidenced serious marital discord. In a number of cases this was found to have influenced the parent-daughter relationships, for the parents' attitudes toward their daughters were related to their unhappiness with their spouses. More than one third of the households did not have both parents living in the family group. The vast majority of families lived in comfortable circumstances. Only three girls were the only children in their respective families, while half of the remaining members of the group had difficulties in relating to their siblings. In every household but one, there was found at least one parent who was rejecting, stern, and punitive, with the other parent unable to be a mature, stable parent.

It would appear to the writer that the questions raised at the beginning of the study have been answered, according

to the case material obtained, in the following way.

"To what extent have the parent-child relationships influenced the adolescent into sexual delinquencies?"

The material brought forth in this study seems to show that the relationships which influenced the girl's disturbing behavior prior to adolescence, played an effective and important role in the girl's activities which led her into sexual delinquency. In many cases her behavior took on a promiscuous aspect with the increased sexual drive and conflicts that appear in the adolescent stage of growth. The disturbed relationships between parents and daughters, which were already present during the earlier stages of development, appeared to be intensified during this phase of emotional growth when the conflicts with their parents were increased. These conflicts were carried forth into their delinquent associations in the community.

"How does the attitude and personality of the mother influence this behavior, especially in light of the adolescent's drive toward identification with her?"

In the vast majority of cases it was evident that the adolescents were unable to form any adequate or wholesome relationships with their mothers. Four mothers were overtly rejecting and hostile to their daughters. Ten mothers were unable to show or give the love, attention, and understanding that the adolescent girl requires. They were either too confused and concerned with their own personal problems or

unable to show any warmth or maternal feeling because of their own disturbed personalities. The girls therefore were deprived not only of the mothers' affection and understanding that is so eagerly sought during adolescence, but also of the necessity of identifying with their mothers on an adult object-relationship basis, which is vital in enabling them to overcome the insecurity, uncertainty, and confusion found in this important stage of emotional and physical growth. Their drive to break the old infantile ties with their mothers, which often results in rebellion, was not only fostered, but continued, as they were unable to turn back to form wholesome adult identifications with them. Their rebellion and defiant attitude was increased by their promiscuous activities. Deprived of any love and affection, the girls found associations outside of the home which eventually led them into sexual misconduct. In four records, the girls' inability to relate and identify with their mothers fostered unwholesome relationships with their fathers which in turn led to promiscuous behavior either as a form of self-punishment for their guilt feelings, or as an unconscious drive to be with father figures i.e., relations with older men.

The adolescent fantasies associated with mother which have been discussed by Dr. Helene Deutsch and other authorities were only actually interpreted in one case as affecting

her delinquent behavior, although there were other cases where the fantasies were probably an influencing factor.

"To what extent does the father influence the adolescent's problems?"

The girls relationships with their fathers, whether it was rejection or as a pathological interest, eventually played an important role in bringing about disturbing conflicts which distorted their adjustment in the community and involved them in promiscuous behavior.

In the ten cases where the fathers were found to be punishing, harsh personalities, it was evident that a majority of them were taking an active, although unconscious part in developing an unwholesome relationship with their daughters. These associations ranged from actual incestuous relations to jealous and possessive attitudes toward their daughters. The girls either bitterly reacted to this through flight or became unconsciously attracted to this distorted relationship resulting in conflicts that eventually led them into sexually delinquent behavior. The girls were unable to find in their mothers sufficient support and protection against these pathological family attachments.

Five members of the group, because of the parental attitudes, were still involved in an Oedipal conflict. This was intensified during adolescence, when emotional feelings toward their parents were increased. With the advent of their increased sex drive and their desire to break away

from home, their failure to adjust and repress the wish to be with their fathers often led them into sexual misconduct with older men.

Absence of the father on two occasions, where the mothers were overtly rejecting and hostile, deprived the girls of any mature emotional support from either parent. This was also found in the cases where the fathers were passive, ineffectual, and too concerned with their own problems to show any interest or understanding of their daughters. Unable to find any parental support, their usual alternative was rebellion and delinquent behavior outside of the home.

" In what way does marital discord become an important factor?"

Marital friction had either a direct or indirect influence on the disturbed parent-child relationships which in turn affected their behavior. Two mothers were rejecting and antagonistic toward their daughters, whose disturbing behavior they blamed for causing the family quarrels which led to the husbands interests outside the home.

In the other cases where marital discord was evident, the information from the records revealed that the parents were so involved with their own personal difficulties, that they were unable to give any warmth and interest or to show any understanding of their daughters' emotional difficulties. Instead, they were not only irritable and annoyed with their daughters, but inconsistent in their training and discipline.

In one instance the daughter sided with one of the parents, identifying completely with the mother, and becoming so involved in disturbing adolescent fantasies relating to the father's brutality to the mother that it seriously influenced her promiscuous behavior.

"What effect has the physical family structure on the adolescent's problems?"

The absence of one or more parents in six households appeared to be influential in the child's behavior and adjustment in the community. The individual situations and resulting disturbed relationships varied greatly, but in every instance the abnormal family structure had some relation to the girl's delinquent and promiscuous behavior.

Since more than one third of the group studied consisted of incomplete households, this factor cannot be underestimated. This does not imply, however, that both parents living in the household decreases the tendency toward delinquent behavior. Disturbed relationships with both parents is equally as effective in influencing the girl's behavior as a disturbed relationship with only one parent in an incomplete home.

"Does an unsatisfactory adjustment with siblings play an important role?"

Although eight girls could not get along with their siblings, this poor adjustment did not directly affect

their promiscuous behavior. However, the quarreling and friction with their siblings did make their home life unpleasant and this was given in two cases as one of their reasons for running away from home. In two instances parents openly favored another sibling and not only showed good cause for sibling rivalry, but added fuel to the already disturbed parent-child relationships.

The writer feels that the case material also suggests a few other points. It was evident that both parents were influential in moulding the girl's attitudes towards them and to the community. Neither parent could actually be said to have the dominant role in affecting the girl's delinquent behavior. Her relationship with one parent depended greatly on her attitudes and relations to the other parent. The adolescent's resulting conflicts and delinquent behavior could not, therefore, be called merely the result of a disturbed father-daughter relationship. It is, rather, how this relationship affected and was influenced by the mother-daughter relationship.

Another point to be considered is that although this study has been focused on the family relationships' influence in the girls' delinquent behavior, the influence of social and environmental factors and cultural disturbances such as war cannot be overlooked. One case in the group appeared to be directly influenced by the emotional

and social upheaval that took place during war. This was brought out not only by the unusual understanding and sympathy shown by her family, but also by the normal behavior and adjustment manifested by the girl before and after her delinquent acts. Although the family relationships played a major role in the other cases, it is the writer's opinion that these other factors, although not brought out in the case material, cannot be minimized.

The conflicts, however, surrounding the girls' delinquent behavior proved so deep that environmental manipulations without treatment were unsuccessful. The majority of the adolescents were found to be seriously disturbed girls who required long term treatment and mature, sympathetic understanding.

The wide and varied effects of these emotionally disturbed parents on the personality development of their adolescent daughters were seen to be influential in this delinquent behavior. It is the writer's opinion, therefore, that the theories and concepts expressed in Chapter II are substantiated, to a great extent, by the case material presented in this study.

Approved,

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APPENDIX

Schedule

Personal Data
- Name
- Age
- Nationality
- Religion
- School Contacts
  - Grade Attained
  - Adjustment

Family
- Marital Situation
- Economic Situation
- Siblings
  - Ordinal position
  - Adjustment

Parents
- Personality of each parent
- Attitudes of each parent toward patient
- Patient's attitude toward each parent
- Disciplinary Methods

Types of Sexual Delinquency Displayed

Means of Obtaining Sex Information

Agency Contact
- Sources of referral
- Behavior problems at time of referral besides sex offense

Information in Record from Psychiatrist

Information in Record from Psychologist